

HARBIN CAMP FOR INTERNED RED ARMY DESERTERS.

201491

The above named camp was located within 6 klms. from Harbin proper, to the east, beyond the Government Horse Ranch.

This Camp provided comparatively good food to its inhabitants and their work had been comparatively easy. According to Red Army Sergeant Fedor G. BELOV, (who often used to be on Camp duty) those who smoked received daily rations of cigarettes, and those who did not - got cookies.

In 1942 the Chief of this Camp was Lt. Col. MAEDA, his Assistant, also a Lt. Col. KOTOKA. To other duties there were assigned Japanese named SHIRATORI, AISA, KINDSE. Besides these the Camp had also a Russian staff: SHCUMIN; TARASSIN, Ivan; LIKOV; GRONSKY; PESTSOV; AKOULOV; KIRSSANOV. All of them treated the campers decently, and only KIRSSANOV alone sometimes was per-snickety. The attitude of the Japanese toward the campers was also not half a bad one. The work the campers had to do was primarily various chores in and for the vegetable-gardens belonging to the Camp, as stated by the deserters who had been interned there during the period of 1942 and the beginning of 1943. According to the data given by Sgt. BELOV (see above) in July 1942 the total number of the internees was 149, and in December of the same year - 199.

Although the general treatment of the internees was quite bearable, still there were instances of mistreatment and shooting to death, which will be

described below according to information from the same BELOV:

In August 1942, 17 campers tried to escape, but all of them were caught and, with the exception of one who was sent to penal servitude, shot.

Almost at the same time PROVATOROF & KIRICHENKO also tried to escape from the camp, but these two have also been caught and shot in the presence of all the internees, the shooting itself being done by a number of internees in obeying to the orders from the Japs.

3. It was said that in Summer 1943 12 internees were moved to some other place but nobody knew whereto.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Job 76-7802, Box 328

4. In July 1942, Lt.Col. Maeda ordered one of the campers FEDOROV out of the camp and nobody knows whereto, because the latter refused to take food while being confined for some minor offence. About that time a deserter called BESROUKOV had been brought to the Camp for a short stay and then taken back to somewhere else. He was not in his right senses and when he was asked questions he answered something to the effect that "You have no power over me and I don't have to answer your questions".

Further, Sgt. BELOV told that after his departure from the Camp he heard that the Camp's baker, ex-Red Army man TCHURSSIN went crazy and hanged himself due to his nostalgia.

The campers were divided into military units, commanded by internees themselves according to seniority of their former ranks in Red Army. Among the campers

there were:

VOSKRESENSKY	-	Red Army	^{1st} Lieutenant
YEGULOV	-	"	"
LIKHOTA	-	"	"
ROMANCHENKO	-	"	2nd Lt.,
ALDINGER (German)	-		Sergeant
PARFILOV	-		Lieutenant
KOUSIVANOV	-		"
TCHERNOV	-		Sergeant
MOHOV	-		Captain of Amour Red-Banner Fleet (was said to have worked in the Far-Eastern dept. of intelligence service),

and many others.

Sometimes Japanese took campers to work in other places. Thus, in October 1942, the below mentioned radio-specialists were employed by certain ^{Radio} organizations in Hsinking (Changchun): RIEPIN, SMIRNOV (PFC) & NOVIKOV (Pfc).

A Moscow actor called OUTENKIN had also gone to Hsinking for some work the same year.

As BELOV's story goes further, in July-August 1942, once when he was on camp duty, a Sgt. OCHKASSOV (sailor of Sov. Fleet) had been called to the Chief's office and appeared there attired in an absolutely new suit of civvies. BELOV's question "where is he going to?" received an answer that Ochkassov was going

on an official trip" and he never came back to the Camp.

In Autumn 1943, four campers, Mongols by origin, were sent to Mongolia for an unknown purpose: MONKEEV, Pvt., KOBRIKOV, Pvt., NIROV, teacher, and KONCHIKOV - militia man. All four were given new suits of clothes, which ^{been} usually has not ^{in coal mines} (in practice when campers were sent over to work ~~at~~ Fuhsin Camp.